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VAST DIFFERENCE

'Dr M has got it right with apples and oranges'

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KUALA LUMPUR: Former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad has hit the nail on the head in saying that comparing him with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak was like comparing apples and oranges.

Communications and Multimedia Minister Datuk Seri Salleh Said Keruak said it was more accurate to compare Dr Mahathir to dictators who were ousted during the latter's tenure as prime minister.

"Dr Mahathir carries with him a lot of baggage.

"He was prime minister during the time a number of regimes

surrounding Malaysia were ousted.

"And Dr Mahathir was compared as apple to apples with these ousted dictators.

"So, comparing Najib to Mahathir would be negative for Najib," he said in a blog post yesterday.

He said the Western media had accused Dr Mahathir of wasting RM100 billion of the nation's money with an estimated RM100 billion more in "leakages".

"This was published in a book and is another of Dr Mahathir's legacy that Najib should not be compared to."



Datuk Seri Salleh Said Keruak

Salleh said Dr Mahathir had, in 1969, accused then prime minister Tunku Abdul Rahman of being a "Chinese lover", adding that Dr Mahathir was now making similar allegations against Najib.

"In 2013, Dr Mahathir accused Najib of neglecting the Malays and of pandering to the Chinese, whereas it is the Malays who support Umno.

"For sure, Najib cannot be compared to Mahathir."

In a forum hosted on Friday night, Dr Mahathir had defended his actions during his tenure as prime minister.



Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad

He had defended his use of the now-defunct International Security Act (ISA), which allowed for detention without trial, saying it was a law formulated by past leaders.

Dr Mahathir had claimed Najib created "worse" detention without trial laws, in an apparent reference to the Security Offences (Special Measures) Act 2012, which was introduced to replace the ISA.

"He's (Najib's) not like me.

"It's like apple and orange.

"He is apple and I am orange," Dr Mahathir was quoted as saying.